

Fact Sheet on State Water Project

Delta Pumps Shutdown

Department of Water Resources



On May 31, the Department of Water Resources stopped pumping at its State Water Project pumping plant located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The pumps will be turned off for about 7-10 days as a preventative measure to protect threatened Delta smelt that are currently located near the pumping plant. When water conditions allow the smelt to move to different areas, the State Water Project can resume normal operations.

No Water Shortages Expected

The shutdown will not create a water shortage in any areas of the state.

Local water agencies are well-prepared to deal with short interruptions in service, such as this, by using other state and local surface and groundwater supplies. Still, DWR and local water agencies will be urging customers to conserve water, both in response to the shutdown and overall dry conditions in the state.

Fixing the Delta: Governor Schwarzenegger's Call to Action

The current situation underscores that our Delta is broken and needs to be fixed. We need to protect the ecosystem and ensure reliable water supplies for our homes, businesses and farms. Right now, we are not able to do that.

That is why Governor Schwarzenegger has initiated a comprehensive Delta Vision process and appointed a Blue Ribbon Task Force to recommend future actions. The governor's Strategic Growth Plan also proposes \$1 billion in new funding to make the Delta more sustainable, as well as vital investments to build more surface storage and money for conservation programs.



Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant, located near the city of Tracy in San Joaquin County, is shut down to protect Delta smelt

Multiple Causes of Delta Smelt Decline

DWR's actions are a prudent response to current conditions. They are intended to minimize impacts to the smelt from water operations. But they do not account for the many other likely causes of the smelt decline in the Delta including invasive species, toxicity and pesticides, diversions by other water users in the Delta.

DWR is calling on other agencies responsible for activities affecting Delta smelt to take similar actions to protect the fish.

June 1, 2007